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Harding School of Theology

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Footnotes: A Word for the Suffering + Hacks for Ministers: Journal Articles

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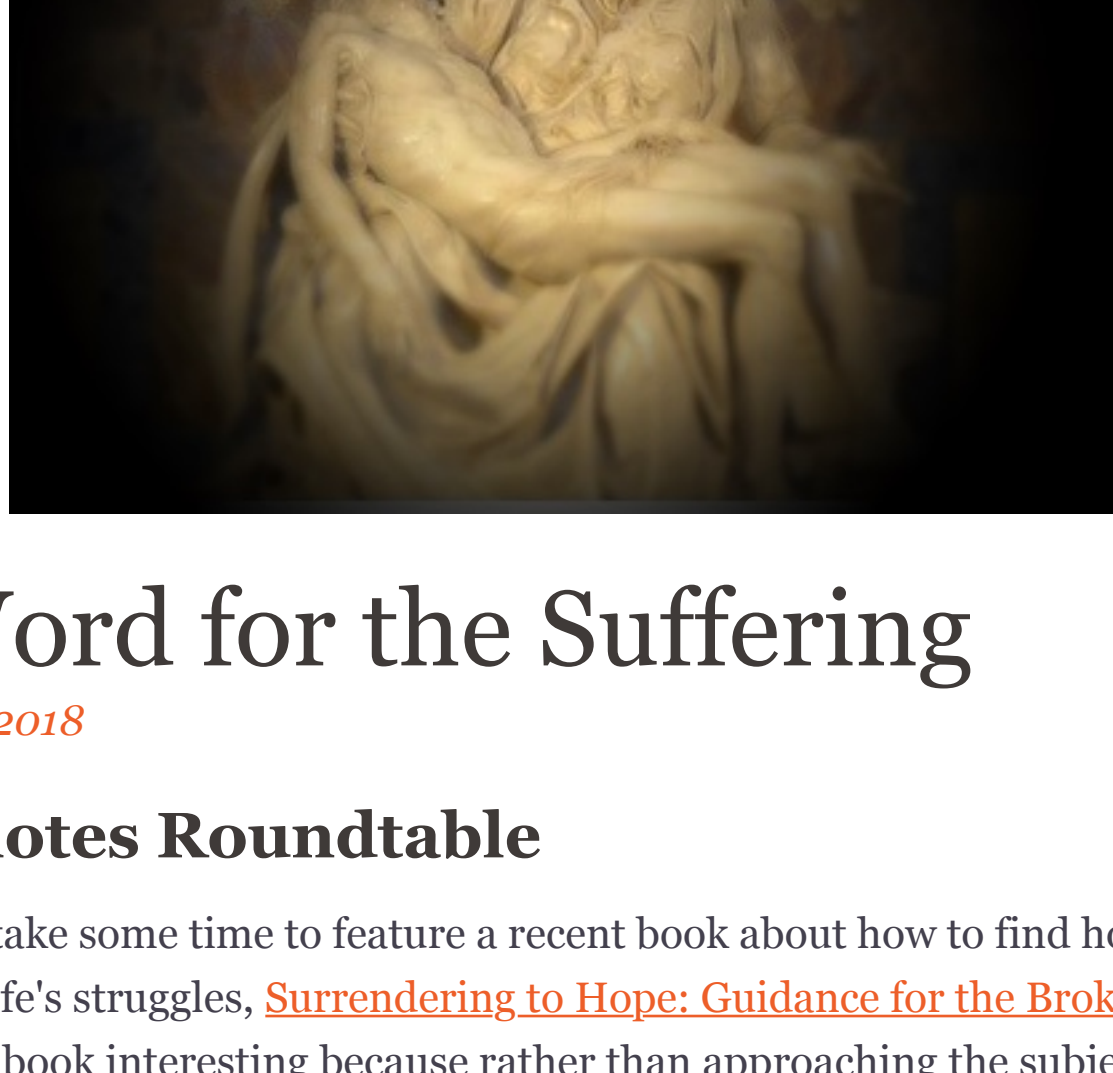
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Footnotes¹

¹Curated Resources for Ministers



experience, this work includes essays from believers who reflect on their particular struggle. The chapters are engaging testimony to life in the power of God's healing. I think you will appreciate them for the light they shed on the dark.

this, I've asked
book

Christine Fox Parker is a therapist

Parkersburg, WV, but formerly lived a few streets down the block from me in East Memphis.

John Mark Hicks teaches theology at Lipscomb University. His Facebook timeline is worth the follow.

- Why did you publish this book?

Christine Parker: There are many fine books that tell stories of great suffering and of those who survived the suffering. We wanted to tell the story of God in those stories. One of the first things I told John Mark when he asked if I'd be interested in this was that I'd been praying for a few months for a way to tell the

People ask me all the time how I healed from such a great tragedy. What do they insist I must have done something. I tell everyone the same thing. I did nothing. I did not heal. God healed me. And God continues to heal

community except on rare occasions. This tends to shame those who have traumas, or at least silence them from fear of exposure or further trauma. We wanted to give those stories a voice.

we wanted people to hear stories of deep trauma, but also struggling faith—and faith that had been tried in the fires of pain. There is hope. Not only might we experience some healing from our wounds, but those wounds can also become places of blessing for others.

- **What good do you hope will come from this book?**

CP: This is what God has been doing from the very beginning. It's not a hope

don't know what it will look like. But I know the One who is already generating your healing."

Past the steps of my front porch. To anyone and everyone who reads it, shares it, and attends to the the story of God's healing in their own lives as well.

in community as groups study, read, and/or discuss the stories in this book, and others--with the counsel and example of this book--will listen to those stories with compassion and support those who have experienced trauma.

have had it (I'm thinking of the chapter by Les Ferguson about having his wife and son murdered). But then it also reminds me that most people are working through some sort of junk in their lives. What are some practices/resources/habits you would

CP: It is to know and understand that God is the agent of our healing, that we can surrender to God's good intentions and steadfast loving kindness. This does not mean that all we do is lay around in a hyper-spiritual state of isolated holy-

people primarily use God to preserve the status quo of community; therapy, medicine, books, exercise, diet, and so much more. Being surrendered into God's presence, letting God take from us what needs to be taken, and participation in God's healing community are all the things God uses to heal God's children.

John Mark speaks in very specific terms about these things in the book, as do some of our contributors.

JMH: Everyone has trauma, though those traumas vary considerably. They are nevertheless, traumatic, and they affect our self-identity, relationships with others, and our relationship with God.

One of the more important aspects of healing is community. You see that in every one of these stories. It comes in different ways, but God heals and restores

Faith dies when no one listens. Faith dies when no one helps (no community). Faith dies when there is no hope.

to them during the deepest moments of their hurt.

Hacks for Ministry

In 2015-16, Dave Bland and I interviewed 400 preachers to talk about their study habits and delivery methods (Our findings are available at "Luke, Luther, LOGOS, and Librarians" in *Summary of Proceedings, Seventieth Annual*

I had a personal motivation for this one. Yes, I'll admit I digested twelve peer-reviewed articles on every text I read, but discovering one really good article can often be

really writing process along. You might be thinking that journal articles seem like specific and narrow. Yes, they can be. Sometimes that is exactly what I need: a point. The articles often attend to one specific point in a way that a book or commentary cannot. Craig Keener's [recent commentary on Acts](#) contains 4,459 pages and thousands of footnotes. I appreciate his labor. But trying to find something in that commentary is like asking for a bag of Fritos and being given a 40-acre cornfield.

Journal articles aren't just helpful for guiding us in what to say, but also what not to say. They get to the point and let us know what the text meant mean--and certainly what it does not mean. I know this means extra work. But I'd rather

afternoon.

At this point you are thinking that this all sounds fine, but what about those of us who don't clock into a theological library every morning? Here are a few tips to help:

1. **Use Public Libraries.** Most major city libraries have really strong collections of journal databases. This is one area where electronic has passed print. For instance, in 1990 it was unlikely that a public library system in Phoenix or Charlotte would have a deep collection of the journals relevant to sermon preparation. They didn't buy them, bind them, or shelve them. But in 2018, they probably have access to a major

still might be able to walk in and use a public access computer to get into these databases. Wait, why aren't you a member of your local library?

2. **Use College and University Libraries.** The same thing is true here. Just walk in, hunt around, and see what you are able to do. Some libraries might require you to swipe a card to gain access, but most do not. I'm not necessarily saying you need to go full-on *Ocean's Eleven* as you enter a collection, but I can tell you firsthand that if you enter politely and pretend to know what you are doing, most librarians will leave you alone. Don't feel like you are abusing a privilege; the staff will let you know if you are. But again, large schools often subscribe to thousands (or often millions) of dollars worth of electronic databases each year. If you get guilty and feel like you are freeloading from a school to which you've never paid tuition, find the librarian around the end of the year and give


embedded within Google: [Theological Journals Search](#). The good: it features all of the brilliant algorithms of Google. The bad: many of the displayed articles are located behind a paywall. My advice: get the citation and send it to a library you have an affiliation with (public or university). If you get a librarian in a cheerful mood they might scan a PDF of it for you. Also, your public library may obtain an Inter Library Loan for you. This will be tough to execute on a weekly basis, but if you are prepping a series in advance, you might be able to collect resources a few weeks before delivery.

4. **Seminary Graduate?** This is where it gets really good. Back to the group of preachers who consulted journal articles for sermons--- over 50% accessed these articles through a seminary-sponsored platform, such as [ATLAS for ALUM](#). This means articles in full-text, anytime, on any device, anywhere with Wi-Fi. I'm not as familiar with the details at other institutions, but here is more about the [Alumni Program at Harding School of Theology](#).

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 Searching: **ATLA Religion Database with ATLASeriale**
[Choose Database](#)

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EBSCO is the mall and ATLA is Macy's. Being at Macy's means you are at the mall, but being in the mall doesn't mean you are at Macy's.

Search modes

- ☒ BooleanPhrase
- ☐ Find all my search terms
- ☐ Find any of my search terms
- ☐ SmartText Searching [Help](#)

Apply related words
☐
Also search within the full text of the articles
☐
Apply equivalent subjects

on Scriptures, but you will get better results if you do it this way.

Use the dropdown menu at Browse and select Bible Citation.

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Inquire

Browse on Index:

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Browse

Browse for:

corinthians, 1st 13

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< Previous

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Select one or more terms and add to search history

(OF) (A)


Add

Terms	Reports Count
@corinthians, 1st 13	42
@corinthians, 1st 13-14	4
@corinthians, 1st 13-15	1
@corinthians, 1st 13-14-15	0

Now you have an opportunity to browse the database for all of the different ways the text has been entered. Let's search for 1 Corinthians 13. Notice how there are 42 records (articles) for 1 Corinthians 13 and 4 records for 1st Corinthians 13-14. You'll want both, but if you had simply searched for 1 Corinthians 13, you would have

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By selecting AD, you can insert all of the checked boxes into your search bar. This means you are telling the database to show the records that it has promised. One interesting feature is that you know in advance exactly how many results you will get, since the Records Count has indicated that number.

☐ Full Text
☐ Abstract Available

the items you've already selected. Now all you need to do is click on those you want and download the PDF.

A Few More Footnotes.

1. Less full-time jobs gave [seminary grads to look to secular work](#).
2. [Confessions of a \(Moderate\) Prude](#).
3. Does the New York Times bestseller list really represent the bestsellers? [Some authors have suspicions](#).
4. Nine Reasons People [Aren't Singing in Worship](#).
5. MIT scientists say conversations, not commands, are best for the [brain](#).

resources that will improve and sustain the ministries. It will regularly feature interviews, recommendations, site reviews, and editorials. This is a project of Bob Turner. You can direct any comments to turner@worldnet.att.net.

- feedback to rjturner@harding.edu. Complaints can be sent to his [Juno account](#).
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